

Minutes from the Asheville Riverfront Redevelopment Commission (ARRC) meeting
May 24, 2010 at 9 am
Initial Meeting of the Commission
72 Gashes Creek Road, Asheville Parks and Recreation Offices
Alongside the Swannanoa River

Members Attending: Jerry Sternberg, Joe Ferikes, Jan Davis, Ben Teague, Ricky Silver, Bill Stanley, Jane Mathews, Karl Koon, Patti Torno, Robert Camille, Denise Snodgrass, Robert Griffin

Members Absent: none (note that at the time of this meeting, one vacant seat existed)

Staff Attending: Gary Jackson, Asheville City Manager, Stephanie Monson, Riverfront Redevelopment Coordinator

Other Attendees: Mark Barrett, Sam Powers, Jon Creighton, Tracy Wahl, Kate O Hara, Brian Jennings, Rick Lutovsky, Melanie Moeller, Cheri Torres, Chuck Pickering, S. Miller Williams

Opening of the Meeting

Asheville City Councilman Jan Davis opened the meeting with a welcome, brief history of the Commission's formation, acknowledgements, and introductions of all attending. Asheville City Manager Gary Jackson provided additional comments including an overview of the Commission's purpose and examples of the type of agenda items the Commission might expect to see over the coming year. These include presentations on the City's transportation planning process, economic development incentive policies, and outlines of what various organizations, projects, and programs are doing regarding the region's riverfront redevelopment.

Organizational Items

Coordinator Stephanie Monson provided a packet of information to the Commission that included the following: meeting agenda, roster/contact list of Commission members, City ordinance outlining the creation, general roles and duties of the Commission, and electronic copies (via disc) of the Regional Riverfront Map and the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Master Plan. The Commission reviewed the packet and noted the attendance requirements and voting quorums outlined in the ordinance.

Bylaws

The Commission agreed to appoint a bylaws subcommittee at their next meeting. This committee will work with Monson and City legal staff on the development and adoption of bylaws for the Commission.

Officers

Jerry Sternberg, Jane Mathews and Robert Griffin volunteered to serve as the nominating committee for ARRC officers. The nominating committee will present at the next meeting of the ARRC.

Regular meeting dates and meeting location

Monson agreed to use Doodle to coordinate the regularly occurring meeting dates and times of the Commission. Commission members were encouraged to send any suggestions for meeting locations to Monson.

Annual Retreat

Monson shared that in addition to regular monthly meetings an annual retreat is a customary meeting for every City Commission. Individuals from the School of Government (SOG) are available to help staff a retreat of the Commission. Common activities at an annual retreat include the development of annual work plan, orientation/review of Commission rules, powers and purpose, including the creation of subcommittees, and orientation/review on the roles of Boards and Commissions in the public sector. City staff can also arrange group transportation in the form of a district tour, and would expect to provide presentations and updates on major redevelopment projects and programs. The Commission agreed to consider dates for an Annual Retreat at their next meeting.

New Business

Discussion, comments and questions from the Commission

Included: desire to have members visit and tour the district together, sharing their experiences and ideas; possibility of using a trolley (via the Chamber) for use on such a tour; would like to know how the railroad (Norfolk Southern) is involved in the riverfront; would like to invite other municipalities, Woodfin and Black Mountain, to present or attend a meeting; would like updates on Wilma Dykeman Riverway Engineering project underway; is it possible to have meeting location rotate; would like field trips to RENCI and Land of Sky Regional Council offices; could use purposes and powers section of ordinance to develop a work plan; interested to work with SOG.

Public Comment

Miller Williams, co-owner of a business in the Riverfront District, noted that he hopes the Commission sees that they need to get organized quickly, identify the critical issues related to redevelopment, and get educated as soon as possible- much of it before the annual retreat; that this is a great opportunity.

Kate OHara, staff at Land of Sky Regional Council of Governments (LOSRC), noted that LOSRC is willing and able to provide technical assistance and other resources to support the Commission.

Adjournment